What is claimed is:

1. A kneeling pad assembly comprising:

a supporting spine section including means for securing said spine section at a shin of a user's leg below the user's knee,

a cushioned cup section having knee-supporting portions for engaging and underlying the knee of a user when kneeling,

articulating means connecting said cup section to said supporting spine section,

said articulating means providing means for enabling and guiding movement of said cup section relative to said spine section from a first knee engaging position to a second position spaced from the knee while the spine section is secured to the shin of a user's leg when the user is not kneeling,

said articulating means providing means for providing and guiding movement of said cup section relative to said spine section from said second position spaced from the knee to said first knee engaging position when the user moves to a kneeling position while the spine section is secured to the shin of a user's leg, and

said cup section being without means for connecting the cup section to the user's leg at or above the user's knee when the cup section is in said second position spaced from the user's knee.

2. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 1 wherein said articulating means includes a hinge connection means providing angular movement of the cup section relative to said spine section.

3. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 2 wherein said cup section and said spine section connected by said hinge connection means which provides a hinge axis extending transversely of said supporting spine section below the user's knee.

3. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 2 wherein said angular movement is limited

to an acute angle.

4. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 1 wherein said articulating means includes detent means providing snap action of said cup section when said cup section moves between said first and second positions.

5. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 1 wherein the cup section includes means to automatically move it from said first knee engaging position to said second position when the user straightens his leg as in moving from a kneeling position to a standing position.

6. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 1 wherein said cushioned cup section is a multi-layer section comprising a supporting spine layer, a shielding layer and a knee cushioning layer.

7. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 6 wherein the layers of the multi-layer section are releasably secured together by manually detachable shouldered pins.

8. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 5 wherein each of said supporting spine section and said cushioned cup section is a multi-layer section comprising a spine layer, a shielding layer and a cushioning layer, all layers of each multi-layer section being releasably secured together by manually detachable shouldered pins.

9. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 8 wherein the means for securing said supporting spine section at the shin of a user's leg comprises a pair of elastic straps with openings therein to receive portions of the shouldered pins in said supporting spine section for quick attachment and detaschment of the pad assembly relative to the user's leg.

10. A kneeling pad assembly comprising:

a supporting spine section including means for securing said spine section at a shin of a user's leg below the user's knee,

a cushioned cup section having knee-supporting portions for engaging and underlying the knee of a user when kneeling,

articulating means connecting said cup section to said supporting spine section,

said articulating means providing means actuated by the user's leg for enabling and guiding movement of said cup section relative to said spine section from a first position in which the cup section engages the user's knee when the user is kneeling on a supporting surface to a second position spaced from the knee while the spine section is secured to the shin of a user's leg when the user is not kneeling on said surface,

said articulating means providing means for providing and guiding movement of said cup section relative to said spine section from said second position spaced from the knee to said first knee engaging position when the user assumes a kneeling position while the spine section is secured to the shin of a user's leg, and

said cup section being without means for connecting the cup section to the user's leg at or above the user's knee when the cup section is in said second position spaced from the user's knee.

11. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 10 wherein said articulating means includes a hinge structure enabling said cup section to move relative to said spine section with a swinging motion between said first and second positions.

12. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 11 wherein said cushioned cup section is a multi-layer section comprising a supporting spine layer, a shielding layer and a knee cushioning layer.

13. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 12 wherein the layers of the multi-layer section are releasably secured together by manually detachable shouldered pins

14. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 12 wherein said shielding layer of said

cup section extends around the top and sides of the user's knee and provides means to automatically move said cup section from said first knee engaging position to said second position when the user straightens his leg as in moving from a kneeling position to a standing position.

15. A kneeling pad assembly comprising:

a supporting spine section including means for securing said spine section in a using position at a shin portion of a user's leg below the user's knee,

a cushioned cup section having knee-supporting cushion portions for engaging and underlying the knee of a user when the user is in a kneeling position,

cup section supporting means for supporting at least a principal portion of the knee-engaging cup section on and relative to said spine section in a first position in which the cup section is held against and beneath the user's knee when the spine section is in said using position and the user's knee is bent as in said kneeling position,

said cup section supporting means providing for movement of the cup section on and relative to said spine section in a second position spaced forward of the user's knee when the spine section is in said using position and the user's knee is straight as when standing.

16. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 15 wherein the cup section includes means to automatically move it from said first knee engaging position to said second position when the user straightens his leg as in moving from a kneeling position to a standing position.

17. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 16 wherein said cushioned cup section is a multi-layer section comprising a supporting spine layer, a shielding layer and a knee cushioning layer.

18. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 17 wherein the layers of the multi-layer section are releasably secured together by manually detachable shouldered pins.

19. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 18 wherein said supporting spine section and said cushioned cup section are interconnected by a hinge structure.

20. A kneeling pad assembly according to claim 15 wherein each of said supporting spine section and said cushioned cup section is a multi-layer section comprising a spine layer, a shielding layer and a cushioning layer, all layers of the multi-layer sections being releasably secured together by manually detachable shouldered pins, and wherein the means for securing said supporting spine section at the shin of a user's leg comprises a pair of elastic straps with openings therein to receive portions of the shouldered pins in said supporting spine section for quick attachment and detachment of the pad assembly relative to the user's leg.